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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Xavier University of Louisiana's goal of educational equity furthered as recipient of Gilead Foundation grant

Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) is proud to announce that it has been selected as a recipient of a grant from the Gilead Foundation. This grant will support XULA's efforts to advance health through education equity. XULA is a member of the National HBCU Health Equity Collaborative (HBCU-HEC), a coalition of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Xavier continuously seeks to expand opportunities and

Provost for Student Success, Dr. Nathaniel Holmes. The program will also hire various pre-college and dual enrollment staff, including teaching assistants, group leaders, and program mentors. Dr. Cirecie West-Orlowski, Director for Equity, Justice, and the Human Spirit, will coordinate additional counseling and other holistic-based programming explicitly designed to meet the needs of New Orleans youth and their families focused on student and family wellness. One facet of this approach includes post-program follow-up counseling for individual participants and their families.

The Creating Possible Fund grant will support program tuition and associated fees, supplies and software, transportation, counseling, and meal expenses for each Xavier University of Louisiana-Gilead Pre-College Scholar. Funding will also be included for many supplementary expenses typically not covered in similar summer STEM programs, such as campus identification cards, college application fees, testing costs, and more.

The National Academies of Science reports that extensive research and studies have found that disparities in education mirror disparities in health. Over the last 40 years, in all regions of the U.S., the gap in health between people with high and low education has become wider.

Xavier has long been committed to improving health outcomes through educational equity. Its pre-collegiate programs are a cornerstone to advancing its mission to promote a more just and humane society by educating its students to become leaders and changemakers. By offering students from underserved communities the opportunity to explore their talents and passions, the University and its partners are building a pathway for student success and enrollment in higher education.

12 organizations have been selected as inaugural Creating Possible Fund grantees, who are national leaders, thinkers and changemakers in education and health equity. **Korab Zuka, Gilead Foundation President and Vice President, Public Affairs, Gilead Sciences.** These grantees are deeply embedded in our society, laws, economy and particularly our educational systems. With the support of the Creating Possible Fund, these grantees will make a meaningful impact on society.

Xavier and the other 12 Creating Possible Fund grantees were selected due to their creative and scalable approaches to tackling equity gaps in education and health for youth in the United States. The 13 Creating Possible Fund inaugural grantees are:

- < Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana
- < Brown University (Annenberg Institute for School Reform), Providence, Rhode Island
- < Kingmakers of Oakland, Oakland, California
- < KQED, San Francisco, California
- < Morehouse College, Center for Excellence in Education, Atlanta, Georgia
- < Oakland Fund for Public Innovation, Oakland, California
- < Fresh Lifelines for Youth, Milpitas, California
- < Pulse of Perseverance, Chicago, Illinois
- < Represent Justice, Los Angeles, California
- < Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, Alabama
- < St. Regis Community Health/Compton Unified School District, Los Angeles, California
- < The Trevor Project Inc., West Hollywood, California

< YELLOW, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Click [here](#) for more information on the Gilead Foundation.

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About Xavier University of Louisiana

Xavier University of Louisiana, America's only historically Black and Catholic University, is ranked among the top three HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier produces more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Additionally, Xavier's College of Pharmacy is also among the top producers of African American pharmacists in the country.

Established in 1925, by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African American and Native Americans to receive quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in art, business, education, biological sciences, chemistry, pharmacy and political science. More recent additions in robotics, bioinformatics, engineering, data science, neuroscience and genetics, in addition to new STEM-based master's programs, have provided Xavier students (2815 undergraduates and 787 graduates) an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities and life experiences. Xavier students collaborate with world-renowned faculty, who are experts in their fields, to produce award-winning research and notable work. The winning Xavier formula is to provide students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls, thereby facilitating a more just and humane society for all. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at www.xula.edu or contact Regi Reyes at (504) 520-5240 or reyes@xula.edu.